

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

March 20, 2015

Connecticut State Department Of Education

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### Summative Assessment Testing Window

The CMT and CAPT Science testing window will be closing on March 27, 2015. This test administration has been successful for students in Grades 5, 8 and 10. As this testing window nears its closure, please e-mail or call the Student Assessment Office with any questions.

The Smarter Balanced English language arts/literacy and Mathematics assessment window for Grades 3 – 8 opened on March 17, 2015. Districts that started testing this week experienced a successful start to testing.

### How to Activate a Smarter Balanced Test Session: Summative Assessment

To ensure that test administrators correctly administer the summative assessment instead of the interim assessment, AIR created a document to provide clear guidance for test administrators. The [How to Activate a Test Session: Summative Assessment](#) document provides instructions on how to activate a test session for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Please bring this document to the attention of test administrators. A new “pop up window” was also added to the TA Interface to alert test administrators about selecting the correct assessment.

### Smarter Balanced Test Information Distribution Engine and Public School Information System Data Sync

The CSDE has refreshed the student-level data in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). The daily sync between TIDE and the Public School Information System (PSIS) Registration Module is engaged. All changes to student enrollment and demographic information should be made in PSIS. **Changes made in PSIS may take up to 24 hours to appear in TIDE.**

Any changes to a student’s status at the time of testing should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. The PSIS Registration Module has been updated to include new fields for **Special Education, English Learner, and Economically Disadvantaged Status during testing**, so these fields can be modified to reflect a student’s status at the time of testing. The CSDE copied the status for those variables from the January 2015 collection of PSIS into the student’s registration record. In registration, these fields should reflect the student’s status at the time of testing. ***If the student did not have a change to any of those statuses between the January 2015 collection and at the time of testing, you will not need to update any of those fields in PSIS Registration.*** You will need to provide these statuses for students who:

- enrolled in your district after January 12, 2015; OR
- changed enrollment from a non-tested grade to a tested grade after January 12, 2015; OR
- had a status change at the time of testing.

*Example: A student was identified as receiving special education services in the January 2015 collection, but was no longer receiving special education services in March 2015. In this example, you will need to change the Special Education status to “no” in Registration.*

The grade in PSIS should always reflect the grade in which the student is being educated. Additionally, if two or more districts have the same student SASID actively registered in PSIS, TIDE will assign the student to the district with the latest district entry date.

### NCSC/CTAA Students and TIDE

Students who are registered on the [CSDE Accommodations Data Collection Web site](#) for the NCSC/CTAA are not listed in TIDE, because they are not being administered the Smarter Balanced assessments.



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## Students who qualify for an English Learner (EL) Exemption

Students identified as ELs are those students who enrolled in a U.S. school for the first time within the last 12 months prior to the beginning of the testing window. These students have a one-time exemption and may instead participate in Connecticut's English language proficiency assessment (LAS-LINKS) consistent with state and federal policy. Students who qualify for this exemption need to be identified in TIDE. There will be a place to note these students in TIDE soon.

## Data Privacy

Please see the [CSDE Data Protection and Privacy Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that contains information about protecting student data.

## Documentation of Security Incidents: Use of Incident Log and Appeals System

School Coordinators (SC) and District Test Coordinators (DC) should ensure that all test security incidents are documented in the [Test Security Incident Log](#). Prior to the test administration, SCs or DCs are responsible for providing Teacher (TEs)/Test Administrators (TAs) with the [Test Security Incident Log](#) located at <http://CT.portal.airast.org>. It is recommended that DCs/SCs download the template and pre-populate the District ID and School ID fields. TEs/TAs must log incidents immediately upon identification and submit them, via e-mail or alternate district protocol, to their SCs/DCs. District staff should establish a process that includes how frequently these logs should be submitted and communicate this preference to their staff. The description of each column header is included in the template. In addition to logging all test security incidents in the Test Security Incident Log, incidents requiring specific actions to be taken regarding the test itself are to be escalated via the Appeals module of TIDE. Districts will be asked to provide their Test Security Incident Log to the CSDE at the end of testing.

## Electronic Device Access during Testing and Posting Information on Social Media

The CSDE has received several reports of students bringing electronic devices into the testing room. Students must be actively monitored and are prohibited from access to unauthorized electronic devices that allow availability to outside information, communication among students, or photographing or copying test content. This includes any device with cellular, messaging or wireless capabilities, but is not limited to cell phones, iPods, cameras and electronic translation devices. Please ensure that TAs/TEs and students are aware of this expectation. For specific references prohibiting electronic devices in the testing room, please see the TAM.

Posting items or test materials on social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) is prohibited. It is considered a breach of test security for students and or educators to engage in this activity.

## Test Administration Guidance for Answering Students' Questions during Testing

If questions arise regarding the level of help test administrators may provide to students during testing, refer to the script on page 43 of the [Test Administration Manual](#) (TAM). Test administrators may direct the students to the item tutorial for each item, but may not help students answer a question. Ideally, students should be familiar with the item response types prior to testing by engaging with the grade-level Practice Test. Teachers may also show students the Item Tutorials that are posted on the CT Portal prior to testing. The Item Tutorials are located on the [Students and Families](#) page under Tutorials.

## Smarter Balanced does not endorse Schmoop

A company called Schmoop is claiming its test prep products are aligned with Smarter Balanced and with Cal State's EAP program. Please note this effort has no relationship to the Smarter Balanced operational test or to Smarter Balanced generally. Schmoop did not seek permission to use the Smarter Balanced name. Further, Smarter Balanced does not endorse Schmoop or its products.

## CMT and CAPT Skills Checklist Science

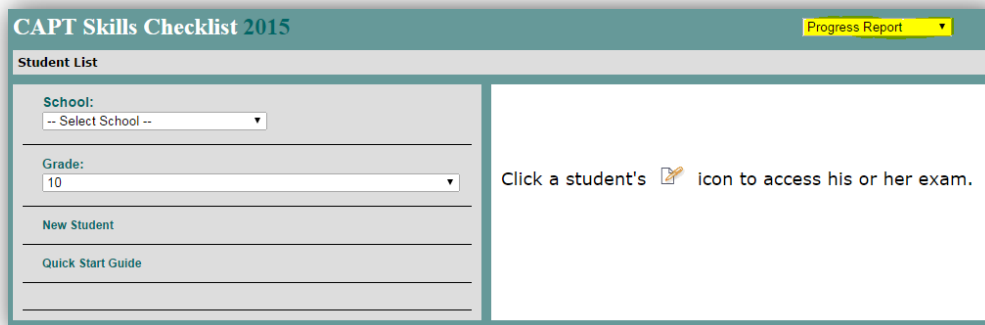
The deadline to submit all CMT and CAPT Skills Checklist Science Assessments on the [Measurement Incorporated Web Portal](#) is Friday, March 27, 2015. District Test Coordinators are strongly encouraged to monitor the progress



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made in completing the CMT and CAPT Skills Checklist Science by their teachers. You may check the progress of either CMT or CAPT by clicking on Progress Report.



A list of the district's school(s) will be displayed and how close they are in submitting all of the student's Skills Checklist Science data.

Status	NotStarted	Incomplete	Complete
●	0	1	0
○	1	0	0
●	4	0	6
●	1	0	18
●	3	0	1
●	0	0	3

If there are any questions regarding the submission of the Skills Checklist Science please contact Joe Amenta ([Joseph.Amenta@ct.gov](mailto:Joseph.Amenta@ct.gov)) or Janet Stuck ([Janet.Stuck@ct.gov](mailto:Janet.Stuck@ct.gov)).

## REMINDERS:

### AIR Smarter Balanced Help Desk

The AIR Smarter Balanced Help Desk is available at 1-844-202-7583 and [CTHelpDesk@air.org](mailto:CTHelpDesk@air.org). The Help Desk Call Center is open Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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